

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, August 12. 1710.

I Believe no Man will deny, that this is the most Critical Time that it was possible, for any Man that Writes of publick Affairs, to speak in—— It is impossible for the Wilest Man in the World, or for ought I know that ever was in the World, to speak to the Points now in Hand, so as to please you all —— If a Man could be found, that could Sail North and South; that could speak Truth and Falshood, that could turn to the Right Hand and to the Left, all at the same time; he would be the Man, he would be the only proper Person, that should now speak, for all any other Man can say, will signifie just nothing; what you do not like, you will not hear

what you will hear, you will not practise, and what you will practise, no Man in his Senses can like.

He that will speak to please you, must say nothing to the purpose; he that will speak to the purpose, must not expect to give you any Content, or to gain from you any thing but Reproaches—— What shall we say to this General, even just as Job to his three Friends, *No doubt you are the Men, and Wisdom shall die wish you——*

Job 12. 2. The Honest Gentlemen talk'd with such Assurance to Job, as if there was no Knowledge in the World, but theirs, and no more to come when they were gone—— But it prov'd otherwise.

Now

Now, Gentlemen, I know but one Man in the World, that is fit to speak of this Matter — And find him where you will, this must be his Character — He must be one, that searching into the Depths of Truth, dare speak her aloud in the most dangerous Terms; that fears no Faces, courts no Favours, is subject to no Interest, bigotted to no Party; that asks no Protection, is afraid of no Laws, hunts after no Preferments, solicits for no Place, and will be a Hypocrite for no Gain; I will not make such a Panegyrick upon my self, as to say *I am the Man*, I leave that to the Consequences — If I have had any Friends, Gentlemen, it is among them you have turn'd out — If I had any Panegyricks to Write, it would be of those you think are out of Fashion; if I had Power to lead, perhaps I would lead them all in again.

If Tories, if Jacobites, if High-Flyers, if Mad-Men of any kind are to stay in, or come in, I am against them, I ask them no Favour, I make no Court to them, nor am I going about to please them — And yet I expect not to oblige any of those, that I think best of — Be it which Way it will, my Fate will be, I hope, to serve you; but I have little Expectation to please you — And thus I am Qualify'd to begin.

The Government has made Alterations, the Queen is Changing Hands for the Administration, some go out, some come in — We say, we are sure Honest Men go out — It is our Business to hope, and *Time must Answer*, for those that come in — That is not the present Case — At the Entrance of this Change, we are all in surprize, Trade stops, Credit suffers a terrible Shock, every thing runs down in its Value, and tears encrease, of its growing worse every Day — Now I desire to speak in this Case, with the utmost Impartiality — *What must we*

do?

To cry out we are all undone, *is to make it be so*; to run down the publick Credit, to break our Bank, to tear our selves

selves to pieces — Who do we serve?

— This is to Ruin the whole Nation, and give our selves up to France — *What must we do?*

To pluck up our Spirits, to appear pleas'd, and Encourage one another again; to go on as we were, and take no Umbrage at the thing, to speak in favour of our own Circumstances, and approve things, raise our Credit, bid for Stock, and prevent the making Prospects — This would be to Encourage the Change, and strengthen the Hands of those, that design to push it on to a farther Extremity; *What must we do?*

For my part, I can do neither of these heartily, and much less the first; I am as much concern'd at Changes, as any Body, yet I have nothing to do, to say to her Majesty, *What dost thou?* Were I to argue against the Justice, or against the Prudence, or against the Policy of the thing, would my Words reach the Case, *now it is done* — I shall therefore say nothing to these Changes, on one Side nor on the other; but to our own Conduct after it, let me speak a Word or two.

The main influence we give by our Management, after the doing the Thing, is upon the publick Credit; I'll avoid repeating the Arguments some make use of, to prove our Securities, in Advancing Money upon publick Funds, lessen'd by these Things; there is no Room to question, but all unsteady Councils, changing Hands, and changing Parties, will affect the Security People think they had in the Government, as to lending their Money; and I know it is the Opinion of many, that things will never rise to the Advance of Credit, they have been at — But let that be as it will, I know not whether it is absolutely necessary, they should or no.

I think there are two Mischiefs however, in this running-down our Stocks, which do not at all affect us, as to Parties, one Way or other; and which yet may be fatal in their turns — I'll lay down the Evils; whether I am able to prescribe Remedies, or no, must be left to time.

1. Gen-

1. Gentlemen, methinks we are acting like Children, who when they are Corrected by Parents, or cross'd by their Rulers, fly upon themselves.—All your sinking of Stocks, and talling the Prices of Things, now falls upon your selves; if you bring your Annuities that you Purchas'd at 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ Years, or at 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ Years Purchase, to 14 Years; who has the Loss, the Government feels none of it? If you reduce the Actions of the Companies, from 136, to 121; of the Bank from 126 to 108, who has the Loss of this? What Resentment at the publick Changes, do you show in this?—All that I can see in it, is, that you fly upon your selves, you lessen your own Estates, you sink your own Substance, and what you have gotten by the Government, and by the Credit of the Government, you are a going to throw away to any Body that will take it up, that has more Prudence in, and foresight of things, than your selves.

If you have a greater Diffidence, in the Honour and Management of Things, than you had before, and whether you have just Ground for that, or not, is not the present Question.—But the Question lies here, what is past, is no more the Governments, but your own; the Annuities, and the Funds that pay them are your own.—Your own, as far as your Engagement on them extends; why else are they call'd a Purchase in the Acts of Parliament? You have Purchas'd them with your own Money; the Bank is your own.—It is the Bank of *England*, not the Bank of the Exchequer; it is the Bank of *England*, not the Bank of the Treasury, not the Queen's Bank; why should any Alteration make you sink your own?

If her Majesty changes her Treasurers every Week, or Dissolves Parliaments every Year, what's this to the Substance of our real Estates?—The Funds Sold, Mortgage'd, and made over to us, are our real Estates in this Sense, and no Parliament can, I may say can in many Senses, touch them.—The Notions we have had Ratted,

of a Parliament Sponge to wipe out our Scores, and Cancel the Debts, is a Notion destructive of Parliaments and the Constitution, more than destructive of your Properties; for it cannot be a Parliament that must do these Things, it must be some violence of a Party, that must commit a Rape upon the Nation; let them be a Parliament of what they will, they cannot come this length; your Annuities, your Appropriated Funds, are as much your own, as your Wives and Children are your own.

Now to what purpose do we cry down the worth of what is our own, unless we resolve to be *felo de se*, and lay Violent Hands upon our selves?—And who do the *Whigs* affect by this, they that we all agree have the Bulk of the Cash in their Hands? Let them Examine what they are doing; are we not running our Estates off as fast as we can, and playing them to the Hands of our Baemies? Mark the Calculation, and cast it up.

A *Whigg* bought a Thousand Pound Bank Stock, at 136 *per Cent.* In April last; he Sold it Yesterday to a *Tory*, for 107, see the difference, the *Whigg* is the poorer in the first Place 290 *l.*—Suppose it rises again to 120 *l.* when we come a little to our selves again, the *Tory* sells it to the *Whigg* again at 120, there he loses 130 *l.* more to the *Tory*; so that this Way, in about a Million Stock, which may perhaps (and the guess is Modest enough too) be Transferr'd from Hand to Hand, the *Whiggs* are 290000 *l.* Dead Losers, and the *Tories* 120000 *l.* clear Gainers by the Flight.

Now I would offer it to the Consideration of our Friends the *Whiggs*, what are ye doing; if the Stock lay all in the other Party's Hands, you were perhaps in the right to break their Backs, run it down at once, and buy low, as you could; but now you perfectly let the *Tories* Jockey you.—You run down your selves, sell your Stock to them in a Fright, at a low Price

Price, and when you are a little recover'd, you'll buy it again as dear as they please.

If you think it is for our Interest, to run down the Publick Credit—— That's to be consider'd of; when the Publick comes to borrow again, you may then consider, whether you will lend or no—— And there's no doubt you may find a time, to make your selves useful again; but this you are doing now, looks quite another Way; this is begging your selves, this is Enriching your Enemies, and will at last, render you poor and useless.

'Tis every Man's Interest therefore, to support Credit, Establish the Currency of

their Annuities, &c. and stand by the Bank of England, East-India Company, &c. this respects their own Estates, and concerns the Interest of what is already their Property, what they have paid their Money for, and what none can divest them of.

Whether they will trust the Government again, or whether they will venture upon more Annuities, Parliament-Lottery's, or Publick Funds; in short, whether they will Credit National Interest or no, hereafter, this is another Question; and 'tis time enough to speak of it, when the Parliament is sitting.

ADVERTISEMENT.



Goodman's-Fields, and is very skilful in the Business to those of her own Sex.

BARTLETT of Goodman's-Fields, who has been so successful in the Cure of Ruptures, by Steel Spring-Trusses, with Joints or without, so wonderfully-light and easie, that one of the largest Size, seldom exceeds 4 Ounces in Weight, and one of the smallest rarely exceeds a quarter of an Ounce.

He is to be spoke with, the Forenoon every Day at his House, at the Golden Ball by the Ship Tavern in Prescot-Street in Goodman's Field, London. And the Afternoons at the Golden Ball over against beapside Conduit, near St. Pauls.

N. B. For Privacy, he will attend any Gentleman at any Place, near the Places and hours above-mention'd. Those, who live in the Country, may be supplied by sending Letters.

N. B. His Mother, the Widow of the late Mr. Christopher Bartlett, lives at his House in

Lately Publish'd,
A New Treatise of the Venerea Disease; In two Parts; the first of which Treats, 1. Of the Name and original Cause of this Disease. 2. Of the Essence and Nature of the Infection. 3. Of the various Ways of Giving and Receiving, Symptoms first Discovering, and infallible Way of preventing its Infections. 4. Of a Clap and its Symptoms. 5. Of the Cure of a Clap. 6. Of a simple Gonorrhoea, and old Gl...s in Men, and Women; and their Cure. 7. Of a confirm'd Pox, and its Cure. 8. Of Mercury, its good Effects, and how to Remedy its ill Effects. 9. Of the Pox complicated with other Diseases. 10. Of Diet &c. proper for Venereal Patients. The second Part contains an effectual Answer to Mr. Marten's Treatise concerning the Venereal Disease, and the Charitable Surgeon. Sold (Price 18 d.) at my House, the Golden Ball between the Sun and Castle Taverns in Milkstreet-Market, Cheapside.

Printed for and sold by John Baker at the Black-Boy in Pater-Noster-Row. 1710.